

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-23, 25-38, 40-45 and 51-56 are pending in this application. Claims 40-45 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 5, 20, 24, 39, and 46-48 have been cancelled without prejudice. By way of this amendment Claims 11, 21-23, 25, 28, 30-34 and 36-38 have been amended to more particularly point out and define the subject matter regarded as inventive. Support for the aforementioned amendments can be found throughout Applicants' specification.

In particular, newly added independent Claims 51, 53, 54 and 55 recite features in a manner similar to allowed Claim 1. Since the Examiner has indicated that Claim 1 is allowable, it is believed that Claims 51, 53, 54 and 55 are similarly allowable. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in this application are patentable over the art of record and are therefore in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 11 has been amended. The amendments to Claim 11 are believed to overcome the rejections in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request for the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 to be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 20-23 and 25-39 and 46-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by Sebern et al. and/or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No 5,860,967 to Zavislan

et al. ("the '967 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,071,417 to Sinofsky (hereinafter, "the '417 patent"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Newly added independent Claims 51, 53, 54 and 55 recite features in a manner similar to allowed Claim 1. It is believed that these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable. It is believed that the prior art, taken collectively or individually, does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of these claims.

Dependent claims 21-23, 25-38, 52 and 56 all depend from Claim 53 or Claim 55, which are believed to be allowable for substantially the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable. For at least these reasons, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Formal Request For Interview

Applicants respectfully request an interview with the Examiner to discuss the present application and the prior art of record if it is believed that such an interview would advance prosecution of this application. Applicants' attorney of record Brian Pollack may be reached at (203) 353-6876 to schedule a mutually convenient date and time and to provide assistance or additional information if required.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-23, 25-38 and 51-56, are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 62001 (51588).

Respectfully submitted,



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